

career. Today we rise in appreciation, not only of his contributions to date, but in anticipation of that which he will accomplish in the future. He is, and continues to be, an inspiring advocate for equality and a voice for the voiceless.

The Congressional Black Caucus is stronger because of Congressman RUSH's diligent work. His clarity of purpose and vision reinforces the CBC's role as the "Conscience of the Congress." For that we are deeply grateful. We salute and celebrate this great leader for freedom and justice.

To all, we wish you a very happy "Bobby Rush Day!"

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2009 today to raise the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), or contribution of the federal government from 70 percent to 75 percent, and to reduce the District's unique role as the only city, except for New York, that pays any portion of Medicaid, an expense that is carried by states and counties in our country. New York City, the jurisdiction that powers the economy of New York State, contributes a 25 percent local share to Medicaid, while the state pays 25 percent, less than the District's statutorily mandated 30 percent contribution. I introduce this bill because the District's continuing responsibility for the share of Medicaid costs typically borne by entire states is a major component of the District's structural deficit and a threat to the financial stability of the city itself, according to the District's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Today, in the midst of an unprecedented recession and of structural change in the U.S. economy, this burden is not sustainable. Yet the District, unlike other cities which have lost significant populations, has no state economy to share this burden. More than 25 percent of District children and adults are enrolled in Medicaid, compared to 12 percent in Maryland and just 9 percent in Virginia. On average, the District spends over \$7,000 per enrollee, while Maryland and Virginia spend \$5,509 and \$5,177, respectively, reflecting serious health conditions that are concentrated among big city residents in this majority African American city.

In 1997, as part of the Balanced Budget Act, Congress recognized that state costs were too high for any one city to shoulder. To alleviate the resulting financial crisis in the District, Congress increased the federal Medicaid contribution to the District from 50 to 70 percent, and took responsibility for some, but not all, state costs—prisons and courts—relieving the immediate burden, but the city continues to carry most state costs.

In 1997, a formulaic error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotment reduced the 70 percent FMAP share, and as a result, the District received only \$23 million instead of the \$49 million due. I was able to secure a technical correction to the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially in-

creasing the annual allotment to \$32 million from FY2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of \$20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing DC's Medicaid reimbursement payments to \$57 million as intended by the Balanced Budget Act. However, this amount did not reimburse the District for the years a federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to meet the structural problem this bill partially addresses. Now, with health care before the Congress, the time has come to close the loop on this leftover issue.

The District has taken important steps on its own to reduce Medicaid costs through greater efficiency, and to treat and prevent conditions that prove costly when hospitalization or expensive treatments become necessary. The District Medicaid agency won federal recognition as one of only two Medicaid programs nationwide to exceed the federal government's child immunization goal for school-age children at 95 percent, and improved its fraud surveillance, recovering \$15 million in fraudulently billed funds. The city's novel DC Health Care Alliance, for which federal approval is pending, would allow coverage of residents and provide more early and preventative care, avoiding huge Medicaid costs when health conditions become severe and Medicaid becomes the only option.

The DC Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2009 is the eighth in the "Free and Equal DC" series. This series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District and no other U.S. jurisdiction. Although today's bill cannot address the entire structural problem that the District faces because the city is not part of a state, the bill would at least make the city no worse off than the only other city that contributes to Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this increase that will help my city's most needy residents.

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of an upcoming landmark event in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District—the 140th anniversary of Chatham University, one of the oldest women's colleges in the country.

On December 11, 1869, the Pennsylvania Female College was founded in the City of Pittsburgh by the Reverend William Trimble Beatty, the founder and pastor of the Shady Side Presbyterian Church. The college was originally housed in the Berry mansion on Woodland Road in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood. The college's original mission was to provide educational opportunities for women of comparable quality to those available at that time at the best colleges for men.

Chatham University is one of the outstanding institutions of higher learning that call the city of Pittsburgh home. For the past 140 years, this school has been committed to providing a high-quality education to young women. Chatham's motto is "Filiae nostrae

sicut antarii lapides"—"That our daughters may be as cornerstones, polished after the similitude of a palace"—and for well over a century, the faculty and staff of this respected institution have labored hard to live up to that standard. Graduates have gone on to leadership roles in business, government, and academia locally and across the country. Chatham's most famous graduate so far is probably Rachel Carson, of the class of 1929—the individual almost single-handedly responsible for the birth of the environmental movement in this country.

Over the last 140 years, a number of traditions have become an important part of the school's identity—the Opening Convocation, the passing of the class colors from graduating seniors to the incoming first years, the song contest, May Day activities, and the Closing Convocation, to name a few. Needless to say, many alumnae retain treasured memories of these traditions for the rest of their lives—and while many wonderful traditions have been established and preserved, the school has changed and grown as well.

In 1890, the Pennsylvania Female College was renamed the Pennsylvania College for Women. Over the years, the student body grew and the school expanded into the buildings and grounds of several adjacent mansions, including those previously owned by Andrew Mellon, Edward Stanton Fickes, James Rea, and George M. Laughlin, Jr.

In 1955, the Pennsylvania College for Women was renamed Chatham College, in honor of William Pitt, the Elder—the first Earl of Chatham, the statesman who led Great Britain to victory in the Seven Years' War, and the man for whom Pittsburgh was named.

In 1992, Dr. Esther Barazzone became the school's 16th President, and under her leadership, the school has undergone substantial growth. New construction was undertaken, co-educational graduate programs were established, and the school's endowment was increased substantially.

On April 23, 2007, the school was granted university status by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and it officially changed its name to Chatham University a year later on May 1st, 2008.

Today, the university is home to three colleges. Chatham College for Women continues the school's original mission of providing a high-quality undergraduate education for women. The College for Continuing and Professional Studies offers a number of certificate, masters, and doctoral programs, and online degree programs were begun in 2005. The College for Graduate Studies offers masters' and doctoral programs for both women and men in more than 20 fields, including art, architecture, business, health sciences, teaching, and creative writing. In 2007, Chatham University's Creative Writing M.F.A. program was singled out by *The Atlantic Monthly* as one of the top five innovative and unique programs in the country. Today, Chatham has more than 2,200 students enrolled. The university is home to several outreach centers as well, including the Center for Women's Entrepreneurship, the Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy, the Rachel Carson Institute, and the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute.

In 2008, Chatham University expanded dramatically to accommodate the growth in a number of academic programs.

On May 1, 2008, the Eden Hall Foundation gave Chatham University the Eden Hall Farm in Gibsonia, a suburban municipality near the city of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County. This 400-acre farm had been the summer home of philanthropist and H.J. Heinz Company Vice President Sebastian Mueller in the early 1900s. At Mr. Mueller's death in 1938, his entire estate, including Eden Hall Farm, was committed in his will to benefiting women. For the next 70 years, it was operated as a vacation and respite destination for the H.J. Heinz Company's working women. The Eden Hall Foundation was established in 1983 to further Mr. Mueller's goals of supporting other charitable efforts.

Chatham University's Eden Hall Farm Campus now is home to a number of educational, environmental, women's leadership, and community programs. It also provides a convenient campus for serving Chatham University certificate and degree program students who live in the suburban communities north of Pittsburgh as well as young participants in the school's Summer Music and Arts Day Camp.

In September of 2008, Chatham purchased a building in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood to hold its architecture and health science programs. The new facility is less than a mile from the university's main campus in nearby Shady Side. Establishment of this new facility, named Chatham Eastside, both benefited from and contributed to community efforts to redevelop and revitalize East Liberty.

Madam Speaker, Chatham University has grown from a college of 100 undergraduate students 140 years ago to a university with more than 2,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students today. It is a highly respected institution of higher learning that has faithfully carried out its mission of educating young women and promoting women's leadership for nearly 150 years. I want to congratulate the faculty, staff, students, alumnae, and friends and supporters of Chatham University on the 140th anniversary of its founding, to express the appreciation and deep respect that the residents of Pennsylvania have for this venerable local institution, and to wish Chatham University continued success in the years to come.

HONORING MR. AUSTIN LAYNE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Austin Layne, a trail-blazing entrepreneur and valued member of the St. Louis community. For over 30 years Mr. Layne has served the residents of St. Louis with an admirable sense of compassion during their most difficult times.

Upon graduating from Vashon High School, Layne entered the U.S. Army where he studied to become a computer specialist. Layne was motivated to pursue a career as a funeral director after a family friend, Gilbert Wade Granberry, offered him a position working at his mortuary. This rewarding experience inspired him to earn his associate's degree in applied science from the School of Mortuary Science at Forest Park Community College.

Mr. Layne opened his first business in 1979, the Austin A. Layne Mortuary. He has since

opened the Layne Renaissance Chapel and most recently, the Austin Layne Normandy Chapel. Mr. Layne independently owns and operates all of his businesses.

Mr. Layne is committed to providing people with the highest quality care possible and has remained dedicated to being available to his clients, both physically and emotionally during their times of grief. He is acutely aware that every family has different needs and strives to accommodate each family that he serves.

Throughout his career, Mr. Layne has been a supportive and gentle person, determined to do more for families than simply conduct a funeral. What makes Mr. Layne so extraordinary is his ability to empathize with each family. He puts himself in their position and works to ensure that arranging funerals for their loved ones goes smoothly as possible.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Layne; a man who has made a difference in each life that he has touched. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Austin Layne.

FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3791) to amend sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act.

The economic downturn is adversely affecting the budgets of local governments and threatening a range of emergency services that communities count on. As declining state revenues force governors and city managers to make difficult choices, the budgets for programs that assist firefighters, first responders, and local communities nationwide with the equipment, training, and personnel have all been reduced.

To help ease some of the burden, the Recovery Act and the FY09 Supplemental Appropriations Act included provisions designed to enhance the existing resources of the SAFER and AFG programs by waiving the matching requirements and restrictions for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. But, the Assistance to Firefighter Grant and the SAFER grants programs will expire in FY 2009 and FY 2010. We gather here today to reauthorize these programs until 2014.

Today, not only must fire departments fight fires, they must also handle emergency medical services, and serve as first responders in the case of terrorist attacks or natural disasters. As the array of tasks falling to local fire departments has grown, SAFER and AFG grants have helped local communities keep pace.

In addition to reauthorizing these two vital programs, H.R. 3791 permits the use of grant funds for volunteer and non-fire service emergency medical services organizations, increases funding for fire prevention and fire-

fighter safety programs, and covers matching and maintenance requirements for fire departments facing economic hardship.

Mr. Chair, these programs are vital to the safety and welfare of the American people. They need to be reauthorized.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 3791.

IN MEMORY OF TOMMY JACQUETTE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Tommy Jacquette, my dear friend of over 40 years, who passed away this week. I know that the community of Watts and the greater Los Angeles area are grieving with me, because we've all lost a truly unique, larger-than-life friend and activist who had his finger on the pulse of the community.

Born in South Central Los Angeles in 1943, Tommy as a young man became part of the Black Power Movement of the 1960's and sharpened his leadership skills during his studies at Cal-Poly Pomona. He was acutely aware of the problems and issues facing the African-American community, and he wanted to make a difference.

Tommy especially loved Watts, and he dedicated his life's work to enriching the community. He was the founder of the Watts Summer Festival at Ted Watkins Memorial Park (formerly Will Rogers Park), which became an annual tradition in the community following the 1965 insurrection, which were riots that shook the Watts community and surrounding areas.

Tommy created the Festival to honor and celebrate our roots, our talents and our culture, and it subsequently helped to spark African-American festivals across the country: today it's known as the 'Grandfather' of all African-American cultural events.

Even in years when he struggled to get funding for the Festival, when traditional donors such as the business community and others wouldn't contribute, he always came through and was able to put on a Festival, using the resources he had and his amazing life skills, largely stemming from being a self-made man. Just this year, I joked with him that if he had two dimes to rub together, there would be a Watts Summer Festival.

I have no doubt, however, that in making the Festival possible each and every year for almost a half-century, Tommy knocked a few heads together. This tall, handsome and fatigue-wearing man made his presence known, often using his penchant for colorful language to drive home the point! His confrontations with City Hall, L.A. County, and other elected officials and community leaders are legendary. He spoke his mind, and was bold and uncompromising in his support of the Black community.

So when he was mad, you knew it. However when he was pleased and happy, you knew it too, because he had a smile that would light up a room and a hearty laugh that would resonate throughout an entire building.

The Watts Summer Festival is uniquely Tommy, bringing people together and focusing both on local and national talent, always with an Afro-centric theme.